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*Cotton Picking in Alabama, 19th Century.*

But when the social, religious, political and economic aspects of your ancestor's lives begin to fall into place, like many who have thrilled to their own discoveries before you, you'll wonder that so much could have really happened in *your* family!



*European migrants crossing the Atlantic to America, ca. 1890. Aboard the S.S. Westernland.*

But identity isn't the only benefit to be derived from your efforts. If you ask the right questions (and by following the Beatrice Bayley System you will), you'll also begin to expand your knowledge of a great many historical events. You just cannot trace your heritage without becoming very curious about the places and events that shaped their lives.

Perhaps you can trace your ancestors to that group of English Separatists who moved from England to Holland and then on to the New World—spending 65 days tossing on a storm wracked sea in a frail craft called the Mayflower. Why did the Separatists argue with King James I? Where did they settle in Holland and what did they do during the 10 years they stayed? Maybe one of your ancestors was born on Dutch soil?

It could be that one of your ancestors came to America on a romantic adventure. In 1704, twenty-three young ladies arrived in Mobile on the ship Pelican. They came here to be wives and home-builders for French settlers in the Louisiana wilderness. Who sponsored this trip and how were the young ladies enticed to make the trip?



*Emigrants from Connecticut to Eastern Ohio in 1805. The distance of 600 miles took 90 days for these ten people.*

It could be that your search will take you to that special day—April 22, 1889—when the Oklahoma territory was opened to homesteaders. Nearly 1,920,000 acres were claimed in a few hours. What made all that activity possible and why was everyone so interested in the Oklahoma Territory?

Or maybe your family history will reveal a bit

*Source ?*

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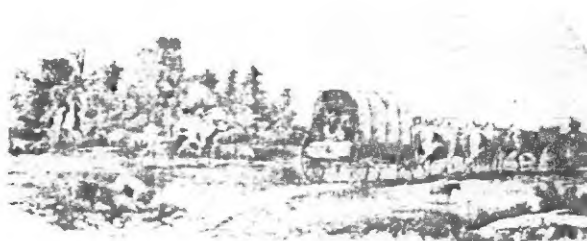


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of lawlessness. Around 1800 on Lake Champlain there were a great many smugglers. In fact, the illegal activity on Vermont's northern border was so intense that federal revenue agents were sent in to put a halt to the free flowing contraband. What was being smuggled and how the smugglers worked might make several days of very interesting reading.



*Oklahoma land rush on September 16, 1893.*

America has always been a melting pot of races and religions. So it doesn't really matter if you're red, white, yellow or black; Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Mormon, Quaker, etc.—your family heritage begins with you. And since you're obviously interested in learning a great deal more about it than you presently know, the time to begin is right now.

The nice thing about genealogical research is that it doesn't require a lot of expensive equipment. The charts in this book, a few pencils and a loose leaf notebook or two to jot down references are just about all the physical things you'll need. From then on, it takes a willingness to ask questions just like a good detective or investigative reporter—who, what, when, where, why and how will be the important interrogatives in your arsenal. You'll need to persevere because there are times the trail may get faint; in fact, don't be too surprised if suddenly there's no trail at all—unfilled gaps in a family heritage are not at all uncommon. Just keep on looking. After all, you know that someone, biologically, had to fill that space on your chart.

Why persist? Why go to extra effort trying to fill that empty line on your genealogical chart? Simply because until you find out who belongs there, a little piece of you is still missing. And if you should ever arrive at a point like that in your past, I suspect that you'll be so enthralled by what you've found so far, nothing will stop you from uncovering that missing link.



*Landing slaves from Dutch man-of-war at Jamestown, Virginia.*

And you'll never really know when you might make that all important discovery—a chance meeting in a distant town with someone who knew your family, perhaps a forgotten family member hears of your interest and sends along some yellowing documents or an old heirloom Bible, and there's an excellent chance one of the names in your Reference Directory has just the information you need.

Obviously the better you get to know all of your ancestors, the better you'll get to know yourself—who and what you really are. So the

benefits of searching for your family heritage are yours alone—at first. But eventually your children and their children will look back on their genealogical legacy—it's a precious inheritance, something they should know and understand.



*Landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth, December 11, 1620.*

Your family heritage research may make you proud or it may make you humble, but as you go further back in time and the pyramid of names becomes broader and broader (after 6 generations there could be over 1,000 names on your charts), you'll soon come to the realization

that many of us really do share a common heritage. The transgressions we commit could very well be transgressions against a distant relative. So there's really no reason why peace and good will should not be the common family bond between us all. As the new Americans began their westward migration, here are some of the sights they probably saw:

E. L. Drake and Peter Wilson setting up the first oil well in the United States.

Emigrants descending the Ohio River on a flatboat.

A buffalo hunter moving in for the kill. One of these hunters usually accompanied every wagon train to keep the travelers supplied with fresh meat.

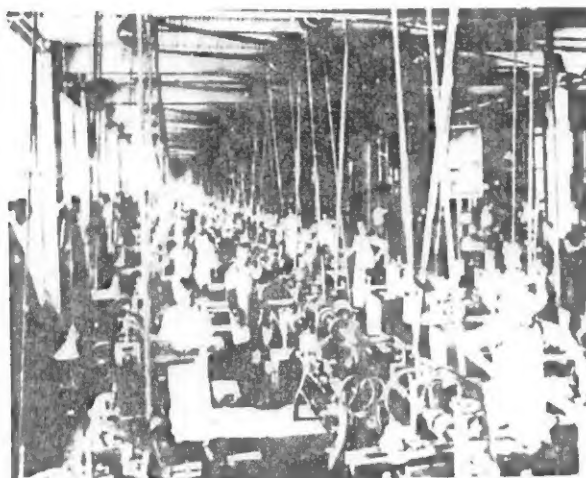
Early cowboys gathered around the chuckwagon for their noon meal.

And in Nevada, Colorado and California, gold fever brought men and equipment—everyone looked forward to saying "we struck it rich."



land (probably Newfoundland) they saw was not the land they wanted. Puzzled, they decided not to land, but turned northward and eventually they reached Greenland.

The first group to discover North America had taken a quick look and sailed away. Years later, Bjarni told the story of his misadventure to Leif Erickson. Lief the Lucky, son of the well known Eric the Red, was fascinated, he bought a ship from Bjarni Heriulfsson, hand picked a crew of 35 men and women and set sail to seek fame and fortune.



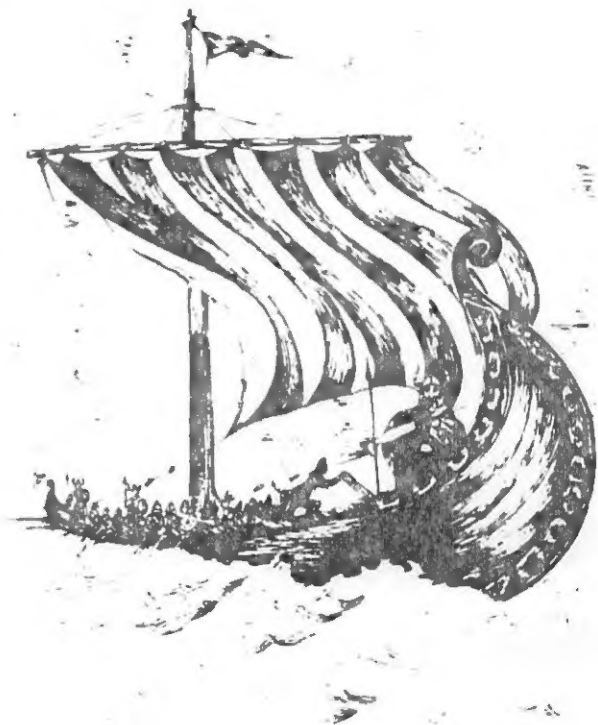
*Old time factory with overhead transmission belts. Waltham Watch Company, ca. 1900.*

We don't know precisely where this group of Norsemen and women landed, but from records, we've been able to determine they put to shore in Labrador or northern Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and along the coast of America somewhere between southern Massachusetts and northern Maine. After spending one winter in the New Land, they returned home. Lief Erickson's brother came to North America a few years later and even located his brother's camp. All this took place between 1003 and 1005 A.D.

Then, for nearly 500 years, there's no record of anyone visiting the North American continent.

Up until 1300, Europeans didn't travel much. The great majority of people spent their entire lives within a few miles of their home. But a new profession was developing, made up of people

who called themselves merchants. Being a successful merchant meant finding products people would be willing to buy. However, in their search for new and unusual merchandise, these traders and merchants began traveling further from home and by 1300 were making regular trips to Asia. New fabrics, perfumes, dyes, ivory, spices and exotic foods were catching the fancy of many Europeans.



*Viking ship sailing open sea with Norseman standing in bow*

Prince Henry the Navigator of Portugal had set up a school for navigators and when he died in 1460, the ships he commanded were making regular trips along the two thousand mile African coast and making Portugal wealthy with the products they were bringing back from these strange tropical lands.

Christopher Columbus was growing up about this time and as he passed time on the wharves of Genoa, heard absorbing tales of far away places from well traveled sailors. Eventually, he, too, went to sea on a variety of ships, and

dise were 20 negro captives—inadvertantly, slavery came to America.

And thirdly, representatives from all the settlements that had grown up around Jamestown, went to draw up a set of laws—the colonists had their first official government.

[Before going on to introduce other nationalities to the New World, I'd like to pause for a few moments and explain just why this overview of the discovery, exploration and settling of the North American continent is so important. You've already read about many instances where explorers, soldiers and colonists mysteriously disappeared and were never heard from again. It isn't at all unusual for men enduring the extreme hardships of exploration or frontier life to desert their countrymen in favor of living peacefully among the native tribes. On numerous occasions, there were reports of "Indians" who were blond, fair-skinned or had different facial features than the rest of the tribe. Inter-marriages were common in the early colonial days and these alliances were certainly responsible for many of today's citizens.

In addition, if you've heard stories that your family's history dates "back to the beginning," knowing about when the "beginning" occurred will help you focus your family heritage research toward the proper time period.]

In 1609, an English navigator in the employ of Holland, traveled across the Atlantic to explore the New World and continue the search for a northwest passage. Henry Hudson's voyage took him south along the North American shore from Nova Scotia to Virginia and then, in an effort to find a route to the Orient, up the river bearing his name as far as Albany. Hudson may not have been the first visitor to this area—Giovanni da Verrazano explored the coast of North America for the French almost 90 years earlier, but few details remain of the trip.

Hudson's restless crew was responsible for his decision to hurry his first trip to the New World back to Europe. On his second trip in 1611, he didn't have the opportunity to make that decision—the crew mutinied while exploring the great Canadian bay he named and Hud-

son, his son, and several loyal seamen were set adrift. No one heard from them again.



*Landing slaves from Dutch man-of-war at Jamestown, Virginia.*

A few years later, Captain Adrian Block arrived in New York Bay, but his ship burned. He and his crew spent a peaceful winter with the Indians while they built a new ship for the return trip.

Samuel de Champlain lead the French drive to colonize the New World beginning in 1603. He explored the St. Lawrence River and even the New England area as far south as Cape Cod. In 1608, he established the first white colony in Canada and named it Quebec. Champlain had developed a peaceful relationship with the Algonquin and Huron Indian tribes. But when these two tribes went to war against the Iroquios, Champlain made the mistake of lending personal support to his allies. The Iroquois had a long memory and swore to keep the French out of their territory forever.

In 1607, things were happening in England that would, in a decade, begin to change the

school and sentenced to jail. Undaunted, he continued converting people to this new religion and when his father died, Penn took the money owed him by the Crown in the form of a land grant in America.

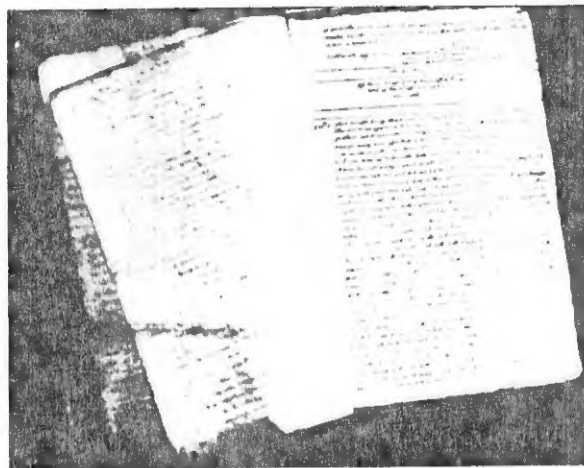
Penn and his colonists arrived in 1682 and immediately negotiated with the Indians to purchase land. The Quakers were pacifists and believed in true democracy. They would not take up arms against the Indians nor was anyone of a different faith denied access to their settlement. In just 2 short years, the capital of Penn's Province, Philadelphia, had over 2,500 residents. A year later, 7,000 people had made their home in Pennsylvania.

Now the population of the colonies was really beginning to grow—by 1680, the estimated population of North America was over 150,000. But all these people were concentrated along the Atlantic coast. Practically no one realized just how much "country" lay to the west.

But some men were curious and determined to see for themselves. The first exploration of mid-America was done by the French. Since Champlain's activities made the French unwelcome in Iroquois territory, they moved further west, exploring the Great Lakes region. Much of the exploration was done by Jesuit fathers spreading religion in this new country. As they moved further westward, stories of a great river running to the sea were mentioned by many of the tribes they visited.

Father Jacques Marquette and his friend, Louis Joliet decided to find this river. In 1673, a small band of explorers set off in two canoes. As they sailed down the Wisconsin River (and all throughout their voyage), they were met with interest and friendship by Indian tribes. About the middle of June, Marquette and Joliet reached the Mississippi River.

As soon as word of the discovery reached France, the Crown determined to use this great river to lay claim to a major part of this exciting new land to the west. Of all who came with this in mind, the greatest was probably Robert Cavellier, Sieur de la Salle. De la Salle not only covered the entire length of the Mississippi, he built forts and when he reached the Gulf of Mexico, named the territory Louisiana, after the King of France.



*Log of the Mayflower recording events during its first trip to the New World.*

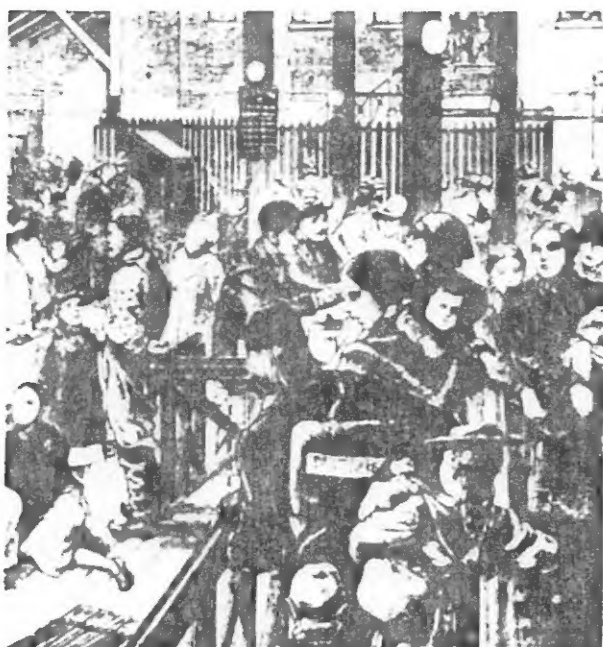


*Plymouth Rock, Plymouth, Mass. This is where the pilgrims landed in December, 1620.*

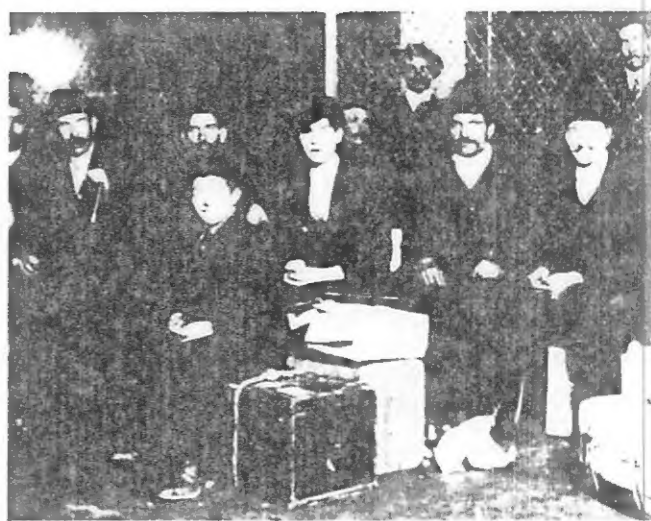
France's attempt to colonize this territorial claim ended as so many before, in disaster, but her traders and her missionaries kept the French alive so that later the King would try to annex this territory and make it part of France.

Now, in slightly less than 300 years since Columbus visited the West Indies, there were over 2 million people making their homes in America—and nearly 500,000 were negroes, brought here as slaves to work in the tobacco fields. In fact, the southern planters were importing slaves at such a rate, that by 1776, nearly 20 percent of the colonial population had African ancestors. About 25 percent of the blacks captured in





*German immigrants headed for Salt Lake City, 1880. Meeting at Castle Garden, N.Y. before departure.*



*A group of Italian arrivals ready to be processed at Ellis Island.*



*Chinese arriving in San Francisco undergo customs inspection, ca. 1877.*



*Jewish refugees from Russia passing the Statue of Liberty, 1892.*